

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

MC-02 L-03 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /099 W

----- 110610

R 170741Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7931

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T HONG KONG 8288

SUMMARY. THE ANKAN SHIPPING COMPANY, FORMERLY A DESIGNATED NATIONAL FIRM, HAS ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING A BOEING HYDROFOIL VIA EXIM FINANCING. THE CONGEN IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PRIOR TO ASKING FOR A POLICY RECOMMENDATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ANKAN SHIPPING COMPANY, FORMERLY A DESIGNATED NATIONAL FIRM DKQ#TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF ARMS SMUGGLING TO THE VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAM, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE EXIM FINANCING OF A BOEING JETFOIL. MR. KWOK HOK-LAI, ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE PHOUNAM TRADING CO. LTD., TOLD THE EXIM REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE WAS INQUIRING ON BEHALF OF A CUSTOMER IN CAMBODIA AND THAT THE VESSEL WOULD BE USED FOR COMMON CARRIAGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED THE CONGEN AUGUST 16 THAT THE VESSEL WOULD BE USED TO CARRY PASSENGERS BETWEEN KOM PONG SON, BANGKOK AND SIGNAPORE. HE ADDED THAT MR. KWOK CHEUNG KWONG IS THE PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDER OF BOTH PHOUNAM TRADING AND ANKAN, BUT SAID HE COULD NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERNING OTHER STOCKHOLDERS, WHO WOULD ACTUALLY OWN THE VESSEL, WHERE NON-EXIM FUNDS WOULD COME FROM, ETC. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE CONGEN ADDRESS SUCH QUESTIONS TO HIM IN WRITING AND THIS HAS BEEN

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DONE.

2. THE CONGEN'S RECORDS INDICATE THAT VESSELS FORMERLY OWNED BY ANKAN WERE CALLING AT NVN PORTS DURING 1968-69 WHILE OPERATING UNDER SINGAPORE REGISTRATION, THAT THE LARGEST SHAREHOLDER AND OWNER KWOK CHEUNG KWONG WAS EXPELLED FROM CAMBODIA IN 1967 FOR "POLITICAL REASONS", THAT HE PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN LINKED WITH SMUGGLING BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, AND THAT ANKAN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED AS HAVING HANDLED TRANSIT CARGOES FROM CHINA MAINLAND PORTS TO HAIPHONG AND SIHANOUKVILLE (SEE E.G. SINGAPORE 978, 4/16/71). THE DEPARTMENT REPORTED IN FEBRUARY 1971 THAT A REVIEW OF THE FILE OF KUO WEN-CH'UAN, AKA MR. C.K. KWOK (PRESUMABLY MR. KWOK CHEUNG KWONG), INDICATED THAT THE BULK OF EVIDENCE LINKING HIM WITH GENERAL LOL NOL CAME FROM MR. KUO HIMSELF, AND THAT A RECENT REPORT INVOLVING THE SHIP "YELLOW DRAGON" INDICATED THAT MR. KUO AND/OR HIS SUBSIDIARIES CONTINUED TO PARTICIPATE IN NVA/VC SUPPLY (STATE 029842, 2/23/71). THE CONGEN HAS NOTHING ON RECORD DATED SINCE THEN.

3. THE CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AND COMMENT THAT PHNOM PENH AND OTHER ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE CONCERNING THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF ANKAN. WE ARE WITHHOLDING REQUEST FOR POLICY RECOMMENDATION PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE ULTIMATE CUSTOMER, USE AND OTHER RELEVANT DATA.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: (#)AS RECEIVED.

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